

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: MICHAEL A. SHULL, General Manager 

SUBJECT: PICKLEBALL

Pickleball is a popular, emerging sport which combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Additionally, Pickleball has become one of the fastest growing sports across the country. The Department has received many requests from avid Pickleball players and groups to provide local Pickleball courts for play. A Pickleball committee has been established to inventory existing pickleball courts and develop a strategy for adding additional pickleball courts to the park system.

There are six existing Pickleball courts, the majority are located in the Valley Region and one in the Metro Region. The courts are classified as either dedicated Pickleball courts or hybrid Pickleball courts. Both Tennis and Pickleball lines are painted on hybrid courts, allowing the courts utilized by both sports.

To convert tennis courts into hybrid courts, four areas of criteria must be considered: (1) the existing tennis court use, (2) proximity of the court(s) to adjacent homes, (3) the sound factor of the plastic ball hitting the paddle, and (4) community support for the conversion. The committee has developed a tracking sheet which includes potential Pickleball sites, type of court, number of existing tennis courts, outdoor lighting, tennis court usage, sound survey, Council Office support, and if a community meeting has been conducted. Once the site has met the criteria, it will be considered for conversion. Funding for the conversion will need to be identified.

The approximate cost for converting one Tennis court which includes resurfacing, repainting Tennis lines, and adding Pickleball lines is approximately \$20,000. There are additional costs if the court requires crack repair or leveling.

Strong support for Pickleball courts has been advocated for Palisades Recreation Center (CD 11), Westchester Recreation Center (CD 11), and Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Recreation Center (VNSO) (CD 4). The committee has prioritized these three sites. The sites have been evaluated and the recommended transition is to have one or two Tennis courts converted into hybrid courts at each location. Operation of these three locations falls under Park Services paid Tennis sites.

Palisades Recreation Center's Park Advisory Board gave official support for hybrid Pickleball courts at their November 10, 2021 meeting. Funding for the conversion needs to be identified. Tennis court conversions will be on the next Park Advisory Board meeting agenda at Westchester Recreation Center, which is scheduled for May 31, 2022 and VNSO for community support.

Funding has been identified for Pickleball courts at Westchester Recreation Center. Additionally, Council District 4 supports the conversion at VNSO.

A scope of work for the conversion of tennis courts to hybrid courts has been developed and bid walks have been scheduled for the three sites for the conversion. The first two sites for the conversion will be Westchester and VNSO Recreation Center where funding has been secured.

Pickleball rules and game play has been developed and is in the review process. The committee will determine appropriate fees or pay-for-play Tennis sites. Rates and Fee will be established for review and approval from the Board of Commissioners. Days and hours of operation will be specific to the site and be determined by lighting, balance of court use with the Tennis players, and the court's proximity to adjacent homes.

Existing Pickleball Courts

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Granada Hills (Petit) RC | 4 dedicated Courts | Open Play |
| Encino RC | 4 hybrid Courts | Open Play |
| Woodland Hills RC | 2 dedicated Courts | Fee Based |
| Tarzana RC | 2 dedicated Courts | Fee Based |
| Chatsworth RC | 2 dedicated Courts 2 hybrid Courts | Open Play |
| Montecito Heights | 2 dedicated Courts | Open Play |
| In design Porter Ranch Park | 4 dedicated Courts | Open Play |

Phase One Additional Pickleball Courts

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Westchester RC | 2 - 4 Hybrid Courts | Fee Based |
| Pacific Palisades | 2 - 4 Hybrid Courts | Fee Based |
| VNSO RC | 2 - 4 Hybrid Courts | Fee Based |

Currently RAP promotes the sport of Pickleball on the laparks.org website at laparks.org/pickleball. The Pickleball webpage has been updated with user-friendly links along with information on open play or pay-for-play tennis courts that have been temporarily modified for pickleball.

This report was prepared by Jimmy Kim, Assistant General Manager, Recreational Services Branch.